

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, which has been cancelled; and claims 3-6, 10, and 13-18 have been amended to depend from claim 1, rather than cancelled claim 2.

In the Office Action, claims 2-19 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter, but were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In addition, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Makoto (JP 2000-025209).


As noted, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 2, which has been cancelled, and claims 3-6, 10, and 13-18 have been amended to depend from claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is also allowable, and the rejection based on Makoto has been obviated. Therefore, all pending claims are allowable, and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any required fee not otherwise provided for, including application processing, extension, and extra claims fees, to Deposit Account 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

KRATZ, QUINTOS & HANSON, LLP

BY:


Donald W. Hanson, #27,133

Docket No. 050051
1420 K Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 659-2930

DWH:rk



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